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Toronto, April 9, 1896.

The College Closings.

LAST week was College week in Montreal and Toronto. Convocation with its bustle and its ceremonies came and went at each of these cities. And important ceremonies they were. Convocation means a great deal to the Church. It is reckoning day for future ministers, and the eyes of Presbyteries and vacant congregations turn inquisitively to the lists, for the standing of the members of the Graduating Class, and for the positions of the winners of prizes and scholarships; while the Church at large listens with interest to the wise counsels of experienced leaders who, from the very centre of the system, speak with exceptional knowledge of the duties and privileges of the ministry, and of the needs and resources of the Church. No better mark of an intelligent Presbyterian can be desired than his interest in the theological seminaries of his Church, for sound doctrine and scholarly culture are qualifications insisted upon by Presbyterians in their acceptable ministers. And it is not without good reason that the Church can look with pride on her educational institutions. She has always been a friend of national education, and has carried her principles with effect into her own seminaries. Her membership and her ministry have given men of learning to the world who have travelled the realms of science, philosophy, literature and theology in company with the masters of the later centuries, who have battled successfully and prominently for the faith as "delivered to the Saints," and who have nourished, and tended, and moulded the national tastes and thought. No Church has been more public-spirited in these directions than the Presbyterian Church, no matter in what land she has taken root, and on every side are evidences that her traditions are cherished and are living forces in these times. The annual convocations form an outlet for public interest to manifest itself, and those of last week were no exception to the rule.

At Montreal College great enthusiasm prevailed and the record of the year's work was most gratifying. As will be seen in another column, the attendance and the diligence of the students, and the continued prosperity of the College in every respect were all that could be desired.

At Knox College there were many elements to attract attention, and events to ensure more than usual interest in the meeting. The D.D's., it is acknowledged, were worthily bestowed, but the honor was secondary in interest to the supreme transaction of the board in making choice of the new professors. Then the financial condition of the College, and its future prosperity and development from that point of view, received much consideration, and altogether last week was a record week in the history of "Old Knox." To some of these matters such as the recommendations to the chairs and

the organization of the new College Association more detailed reference than is here bestowed will be made elsewhere in this issue.

The Board's Choice.

The Board of Knox College has made its choice in the matter of the Professors for the vacant chairs under its control. As is well-known the choice is not final as it must be ratified or amended by the General Assembly, but still it is most unlikely that it will be disturbed, for the usual course, and the most reasonable one, considering the circumstances, is that the recommendations of the Board should be confirmed by the General Assembly. The Board is a large, an influential, and a representative body. On it are members of the faculty of the College, some of the best known, and most useful of its honored Alumni, who have given much time, thought and service to the welfare of the College, and laymen, such as the chairman, Mr. Mortimer Clark, Q.C., Mr. J. K. Macdonald, Mr. R. Kilgour, Mr. Ormiston, and others who are pillars in the Church and whose disinterested services and enlightened judgment entitle them to deep respect in the councils of the Church. The Board draws its membership, moreover, from Presbyteries widely apart and in touch with the feeling and needs of the Church throughout a wide area of territory. It will be conceded, therefore, that the wisest course for the Assembly to pursue is to accept the recommendation of the Board in matters affecting the College so closely as the appointment of new professors, unless where serious considerations could be urged for a contrary course.

So far as can be learned the choice made will meet with general approval. The qualifications of the nominees selected are high; they are men already in the very front rank, or with the promise of a near approach thereto. The selection reflects credit on the patriotism of the Board and on its deep sense of duty to the Church. It had a list before it containing the names of strong men, bred within the Canadian Church, brothers of their own, with strong claims on the positions, yet no consideration influenced the Board but one solely and that was to do the best possible for the Church. And as showing the harmony, the singleness of the aim of the members, the choice was made unanimous and it goes out to the public as the unanimous choice of the Board. As to the choice made there is likely to be satisfaction throughout the Church. Dr. Robinson has behind him a splendid record and very high testimonials of fitness for the important duties which it is intended will be entrusted to him. He is a young man settled over a congregation, but with a college record of great distinction. He is energetic, industrious and would be an attracting and stimulating power in the College and Church. Dr. Hope Hogg is also a young man credited with singular abilities in his special departments. Those who have stood sponsors for him can be relied upon for honest, and competent advice as to his thorough qualifications for the post which is likely to be offered to him by the General Assembly. Dr. Robinson is a graduate of Princeton, with post-graduate training in Scotland and Germany, and Dr. Hogg is a graduate of Edinburg with Oxford post-graduate training.

It will be remembered that at the last meeting of the General Assembly a committee of the Alumni was appointed to discuss the work of the Chairs and consider the selection of occupants for them, and it is understood that the choice now made meets the approval of this committee. Should these gentlemen be the final choice of the Church and be installed in the important positions